

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-105 (Cancelled).

106 (New). An isolated NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK) polypeptide that binds to cyc, comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide comprising the C-terminus of NIK from residue 624 to 947 (SEQ ID NO: 19);

(b) a variant of (a) maintaining at least 95% identity with (a) and retaining the ability to bind to cyc;

(c) a fragment of (a) or (b) that retains the ability to bind cyc and includes residues 640 to 720 of SEQ ID NO: 19; or

(d) a salt or functional derivative of (a), (b) or (c) that retains the ability to bind cyc, said functional derivative being an ester or aliphatic amide of the carboxyl group of the polypeptide or an N-acyl derivative of a free amino group of the polypeptide, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group of the polypeptide.

107 (New). An isolated NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK) polypeptide that binds to cyc, consisting of:

(a) the C-terminus of NIK from residues 624 to 947 (SEQ ID NO: 19);

(b) a variant of (a) maintaining at least 95% identity with (a) and retaining the ability to bind to cyc;

(c) a fragment of (a) or (b) that retains the ability to bind cyc and includes residues 640 to 720 of SEQ ID NO: 19; or

(d) a salt or functional derivative of (a), (b) or (c) that retains the ability to bind cyc, said functional derivative being an ester or aliphatic amide of the carboxyl group of the polypeptide or an N-acyl derivative of a free amino group of the polypeptide, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group of the polypeptide.

108 (New). An isolated NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK) polypeptide that binds to cyc, consisting of:

(a) NIK residues 640 to 720 (SEQ ID NO: 18);

(b) a variant of (a) maintaining at least 95% identity with (a) and retaining the ability to bind to cyc;

(c) a fragment of (a) or (b) that retains the ability to bind cyc; or

(d) a salt or functional derivative of (a), (b) or (c) that retains the ability to bind cyc, said functional derivative being an ester or aliphatic amide of the carboxyl group of the polypeptide or an N-acyl derivative of a free

amino group of the polypeptide, or an O-acyl derivative of a free hydroxyl group of the polypeptide.

109 (New). The polypeptide of claim 106, consisting of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 19.

110 (New). The polypeptide of claim 108, consisting of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 18.

111 (New). The polypeptide of claim 106, wherein the variant consists of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 19, in which the codon corresponding to 860 of human NIK encodes arginine instead of glycine.